

[25 February, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

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Monday, the 25th February, 2002/6 Phalguna, 1923 (Saka).

The House met at twenty minutes past one of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

The National Anthem, "*Jana Gana Mana*", was played.

MEMBER SWORN

Dr. V. Maitreya (Tamil Nadu)

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Laid on the Table

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 25th February, 2002.

[Text of the Address delivered by the President (Shri K.R. Narayanan)]

Honourable Members

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this first session of Parliament in 2002. My best wishes are with you for the successful completion of the heavy budgetary and legislative business ahead.

As we begin this session, most of the results of the elections to the Legislative Assemblies of four States - Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Manipur, and Uttaranchal - have come in. I join you in congratulating the newly elected legislators. Our special felicitations go to the people of Uttaranchal, who have elected their Vidhan Sabha for the first time after the formation of their State. I also welcome the newly elected Members of the Lok Sabha, consequent to the bye-elections in some constituencies.

This is the first session of Parliament after the unprecedented terrorist attack on this Temple of India's Democracy on December 13 last year. It was an audacious challenge to our sovereignty. It was an assault on our national honour. It was a diabolical plot to carry out large-scale annihilation of the leaders of different political parties and peoples'